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List of Classics Recommended to Major Students in English [U. of I.] (1922)

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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

Alice M. Jacoby.

LIST OF CLASSICS RECOMMENDED TO MAJOR STUDENTS IN ENGLISH

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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

LIST OF CLASSICS RECOMMENDED TO MAJOR STUDENTS IN ENGLISH[1]

I. THE MIDDLE AGES

A.—English Literature[2]

Anglo-Saxon Period: *Beowulf.*

Middle English Period: Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and *Troilus and Cressida.*

Gawain and the Green Knight.

Ballads.

Malory's *Morte Darthur* (complete in two volumes in Camelot Series).

B.—Foreign Literature

Oriental: *Arabian Nights.*

French: *Song of Roland* (translated by A. W. Way, Cambridge, 1913).

Translations of Arthurian romances in Newell's *King Arthur and the Round Table.*

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[1]For a famous definition of the term classic see Sainte-Beuve's essay, "What is a Classic?"

Remembering the close connection between English history, the English language, and English literature, students should have at hand for purposes of reference and supplementary reading such well-known books as:

Green's *Shorter History of the English People.*
Emerson's *History of the English Language*
Greenough and Kittredge's *Words and their Ways in English Speech.*

Furthermore, all students should acquaint themselves with:

The *Cambridge History of English Literature.*
Jusserand's *Literary History of the English People.*
Saintsbury's *History of English Prosody.*
Courthope's *History of English Poetry.*
The *Dictionary of National Biography.*

The following histories of foreign literatures may be profitably consulted:

Garnett's *History of Italian Literature.*
Dowden's *History of French Literature.*
Wright's *History of French Literature.*
Faguet's *Literary History of France.*
Robertson's *History of German Literature.*
Fitzmaurice-Kelly's *Spanish Literature.*
Gilbert Murray's *Ancient Greek Literature.*
J. W. Mackail's *Latin Literature.*

[2]For the Anglo-Saxon and Middle English period see especially:

Ten Brink's *History of English Literature.*
Stopford Brooke's *English Literature from the Beginning to the Norman Conquest.*
Schofield's *English Literature from the Norman Conquest to Chaucer.*
W. P. Ker's *Medieval English Literature* (Home University Library).
For Chaucer see Root's *Poetry of Chaucer* (second edition) and Kittredge's *Chaucer and his Poetry.*
The translations of Beowulf are numerous. See particularly:
Gummere's *The Oldest English Epic* and
J. Duncan Spaeth's *Old English Poetry.*
These volumes contain translations in alliterative verse of Beowulf and other Anglo-Saxon poetry.
For wider reading in the Middle English period, see *The Chief Middle English Poets,* modernized and edited by Jessie L. Weston.

Italian: Dante's *Divine Comedy.*
Boccaccio's *Decameron.*
Petrarch's Sonnets.

German: *Nibelungenlied* (translated by A. W. Way, Cambridge, 1911; translation by Margaret Armour in Everyman's Library).

Norse: *Volsunga Saga* (translated by William Morris in Camelot Series).

II. THE RENAISSANCE[3]

A.—English Literature

(Poetry)

Lyrics in Schelling's *Elizabethan Lyric.*
Shakespeare's Plays and Sonnets.
Plays in Neilson's *Chief Elizabethan Dramatists.*
Plays in Manly's *Specimens of Pre-Shakespearean Drama,* Vol. II.
Spenser's *Faerie Queen.*

(Prose)

More's *Utopia.*
Sidney's *Apologie for Poetry.*
Bacon's Essays.
Authorized Version of the Bible.

B.—Foreign Literature

French: Selections from Rabelais in Warner's *Library of the World's Best Literature.*
Montaigne's Essays, Vol. III.

Italian: Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso.*
Cellini's Autobiography.
Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered.*

Spanish: Cervantes' *Don Quixote.*

III. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY[4]

A.—English Literature

(Poetry)

Lyric poetry in Schelling's *Seventeenth Century Lyrics* (Athenaeum Press Series).

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[3]For the Renaissance in general, see Pater, *The Renaissance;* Edith Sichel, *The Renaissance* (Home University Library); J. A. Symonds' *A Short History of the Renaissance.* For English literature of the period, see Saintsbury's *History of Elizabethan Literature* (Home University Library); Schelling's *English Literature during the Lifetime of Shakespeare;* Schelling's *Elizabethan Drama;* Krapp's *Rise of English Literary Prose.*

[4]See Barrett Wendell's *Temper of the Seventeenth Century in English Literature.*

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Illinois Teachers Survey

Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Samson Agonistes*.
Selections from Dryden in the edition by W. D. Christie (Oxford Press).
Butler's *Hudibras*.

(Prose)

Sir Thomas Browne's *Religio Medici*.
Milton's prose in Riverside Literature Series (*Tractate on Education, Areopagitica, The Commonwealth*).
Taylor's *Holy Living*.
Walton's *Complete Angler*.
Pepys' Diary (Everyman's Library).
Dryden's *Essays on Dramatic Poesy and Kindred Subjects* (Everyman's Library).
Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.
Cowley's Essays.

B.—Foreign Literature

French: Corneille's *Le Cid*.
Molière's *Tartuffe* and *Le Médecin malgré lui*.
Pascal's *Pensées* (Camelot Series).
Racine's *Athalie*.
Lafontaine's Fables.
La Rochefoucauld's Maxims.

IV. EIGHTEENTH CENTURY[5]

A.—English Literature

(Poetry)

Selections from Pope (see edition by H. W. Boynton in Riverside Literature Series).
Selections from Goldsmith's poems (see edition in Riverside Literature Series).
Selections from Gray's poems (see edition in Riverside Literature Series).
Selections from Burns in Athenaeum Press Series.
Selections from Cowper in Athenaeum Press Series.
Selections from Blake in Ward's English Poets.

(Prose)

Selections from the Essays of Addison and Steele in Scribner's Modern Student's Library.
Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.
Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.
Richardson's *Clarissa Harlowe*.
Fielding's *Tom Jones*.

[5]See Gosse's *History of English Literature in the Eighteenth Century*; and Professor Bernbaum's anthology, *English Poets of the Eighteenth Century*.

Goldsmith's *Citizen of the World, The Vicar of Wakefield, She Stoops to Conquer.*
Sterne's *Sentimental Journey.*
Burke's *American Speeches and Letters* (Everyman's Library).
Hume's Political Essays (Camelot Series).
Chesterfield's Letters.
Sheridan's *The Rivals* and *The School for Scandal.*
Franklin's *Autobiography.*
Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.*
Johnson's Lives of Addison, Dryden, and Pope.
Boswell's *Life of Johnson.*

B.—Foreign Literature

French: Lesage's *Gil Blas* (Everyman's Library).
Voltaire's *Candide.*
Rousseau's *Nouvelle Héloise.*

German: Lessing's *Laocoön* (Camelot Series)
Schiller's *Wallenstein* (Bohn Library).

V. NINETEENTH CENTURY[6]

A.—English Literature

(Poetry)

Wordsworth (selections in Golden Treasury Series).
Coleridge (selections in Belles-Lettres Series).
Keats (selections in Athenaeum Press Series).
Shelley (selections in Athenaeum Press Series).
Byron (selections in Golden Treasury Series).
Scott's *Lay of the Last Minstrel, Marmion,* and *Lady of the Lake.*
Longfellow.
Lowell.
Poe.
Rossetti.
Swinburne (selections in Belles-Lettres Series).
Tennyson (selections in Athenaeum Press Series).
Browning (selections in Belles-Lettres Series).
Matthew Arnold (selections in Belles-Lettres Series).
Emerson (edition of essays and poems by S. P. Sherman: Harcourt, Brace & Howe).
Fitzgerald's translation of the Rubaiyat.
Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* (edited by S. P. Sherman in Modern Student's Library).

(Prose)

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice.*
Southey's *Life of Nelson.*

[6]See Saintsbury's *History of Nineteenth Century Literature.*

De Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium Eater.*
Irving's Essays (see *Essays from the Sketch Book,* Riverside Literature Series).
Scott's *Heart of Midlothian* and *Kenilworth.*
Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans.*
Landor's *Imaginary Conversations* (see selections in Camelot Series).
Poe's Tales.
Hazlitt (selections in Zeitlin's *Hazlitt on English Literature*).
Prescott's *Conquest of Mexico.*
Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* and *David Copperfield.*
Carlyle's *Heroes and Hero-Worship* and *Sartor Resartus.*
Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre.*
Borrow's *Bible in Spain.*
Lockhart's *Life of Scott.*
Thackeray's *Vanity Fair, Pendennis, Henry Esmond.*
Emerson's Essays (edited by S. P. Sherman: Harcourt, Brace & Co.)
Macaulay's Essays (Everyman's Library).
Thoreau's *Walden.*
Webster's Reply to Hayne.
Holmes' *Autocrat of the Breakfast Table.*
Newman's *Scope and Nature of University Education.*
Motley's *Rise of the Dutch Republic.*
Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* (edited by S. P. Sherman in Modern Student's Library).
Huxley (see Ada L. Snell's *Autobiography and Selections from Lay Sermons*).
Mill's *Liberty, Utilitarianism,* and *Representative Government* (Everyman's Library).
Arnold's *Essays in Criticism* and *Culture and Anarchy.*
Parkman's *Siege of Pontiac.*
Ruskin's *Unto This Last.*
Lowell's Essays (selections in Riverside Literature Series).
Meredith's *Richard Feverel.*
Pater's *Renaissance.*
Stevenson's Essays.
Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn.*
Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles.*
Henry James's *Portrait of a Lady.*

B.—Foreign Literature

French: Balzac's *Père Goriot.*
Dumas' *Three Musketeers.*
Hugo's *Les Miserables.*
Sainte-Beuve (see translated selections in Camelot Series).
Flaubert's *Madame Bovary.*

Anatole France's *Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard.*
Selected stories of Maupassant in *The Odd Number* (Harper).

German: Goethe's *Faust,* Part I; and *Dichtung und Wahrheit.*
Heine (selections in Camelot Series; see also translations from Heine in the Bohn Library. *The Romantic School,* translated by S. L. Fleishmann, New York, 1862).

Norwegian: Ibsen's *A Doll's House.*

Russian: Turgenev's *Smoke; Fathers and Sons.*
Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment.*
Tolstoi's *Anna Karenina, The Cossacks,* and *War and Peace.*
Chekhov's *Tales* (Modern Library).

VI. GREEK AND LATIN LITERATURE

A.—Greek Literature

(Poetry)

Homer's *Iliad* (Lang, Leaf, and Myers' translation: Macmillan).
Homer's *Odyssey* (translated by G. H. Palmer, Riverside Literature Series).
Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* (translated by J. Conington in Greek Classics for English Readers).
Aristophanes' *Frogs* (Everyman's Library).
Euripides' *Alcestis* (translated by Gilbert Murray, Oxford Press; translation by H. Kynaston in Greek Classics for English Readers).
Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus* (translation by Gilbert Murray, Oxford Press).
Antigone (Greek Classics for English Readers).

(Prose)

Herodotus' *History,* Book III (Loeb Library).
Plato's *Apology, Crito, Phaedo* (see translation of the *Apology* by Paul Elmer More in Riverside Literature Series).
Aristotle's *Poetics* (see Lane Cooper's translation, Ginn & Co., or the translation in Camelot Series).
Plutarch's *Lives* (Camelot Series).
Epictetus' Moral Discourses (Everyman).
Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations* (Everyman's Library, or Camelot Series).

B.—Latin Literature

Plautus' *Menæchmi* (Loeb Classical Library).
Cicero's *De Officiis* (Everyman's Library).
Lucretius' *On the Nature of Things* (Oxford Library of Translations).

Horace's *Odes and Satires* (Oxford Library of Translations).
Virgil's *Aeneid* (Oxford Library of Translations).
Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (Loeb Library).

The attention of persons using this book-list is called to the following series, including books of selections and translations from foreign languages:

Aldine Poets (Bell).
Athenaeum Press Series (Ginn).
Belles-Lettres Series (Heath).
Bohn's Standard Libraries (Harcourt, Brace & Co.).
Bohn's Popular Libraries (Harcourt, Brace & Co.).
Camelot Series (Walter Scott Co.).
Chief Poets Series (Houghton, Mifflin).
Eclectic English Classics (American Book Co.).
English Readings (Holt).
Everyman's Library (Dutton).
Golden Treasury Series (Oxford Press).
Greek Classics for English Readers (Oxford Press).
Harper Translations (American Book Co.).
Heath's English Classics (American Book Co.).
Home Library (Burt).
Loeb Classics (Putnam).
Masters of Literature (Bell).
Masterpieces of the English Drama (American Book Co.).
Modern Student's Library (Scribners).
Oxford Editions of Standard Authors (Oxford Press).
Oxford Library of Prose and Poetry (Oxford Press).
Riverside Literature Series (Houghton, Mifflin).
Standard English Classics (Ginn & Co.).
Translations from Greek Literature by Gilbert Murray (Oxford Press).
Universal Library (Routledge).
Ward's English Poets (Macmillan).
Modern Library (Boni and Liveright).

ENGLISH 30
SCHEDULE OF READING
APRIL AND MAY

A	B
REQUIRED	SUGGESTED
To be completed April 12 Henry James Daisy Miller *The American (Begun)	Henry James NOVELS The Europeans Roderick Hudson The Princess Cassamassima 2 vols.
April 19 The American (Finished) Vol. XII. The Turn of the Screw.	TALES Vol. XVIII Pandora XIV. Lady Barbarina The Pension Beaurepas XII. The Liar XV. The Figure in the Carpet XVI. The Author of Beltraffio Four Meetings
26 * Portrait of a Lady.	LETTERS Two volumes Edited by Percy Lubbock
May 3 XIII. Madame de Mauves * What Maisie Knew	CRITICISM Views and Reviews Notes on Novelists Gustave Flaubert J.W. Beach The Method of Henry James Brownell W.C. Henry James in American Prose Masters Percy Lubbock The Craft of Fiction
Edith Wharton	Edith Wharton
May 10 * The House of Mirth	NOVELS The Custom of the Country Summer The Fruit of the Tree
17 The Age of Innocence	SHORT NOVELS Madame de Treymes The Old Maid
24 Ethan Frome	SHORT STORIES Xingu and Other Stories CRITICISM The Writing of Fiction

Papers (800 words)
April 19 May 3

Term paper (2000 words)
May 17.

* To be bought.

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